

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing prior to an examination on the merits, and in light of the remarks which follow, is respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Chowdhury for his time and consideration in discussing the present application with Applicants' representative on August 3, 2004. During the discussion, Applicants' representative noted that the Official Action mailed July 14, 2004, did not appear to take into consideration the Preliminary Amendment filed September 29, 2003. The Examiner advised that such Preliminary Amendment was erroneously overlooked by the Patent Office. The Examiner indicated that the previous Official Action would be rescinded and a new Official Action would be issued taking into consideration the previously unconsidered Preliminary Amendment.

By the above amendments, claims 22-30 have been amended for clarification purposes to correct the claim dependencies thereof.

It is noted that the Updated Filing Receipt mailed March 29, 2004, indicates that the filing date of the present application is February 19, 2004.¹ However, the present application was originally filed on September 29, 2003, as indicated in the Filing Receipt mailed December 19, 2003. Applicants respectfully request issuance of a corrected Filing Receipt which sets forth the correct filing date of the present application, i.e., September 29, 2003. In this regard, a Request for Corrected Updated Official Filing Receipt is being filed herewith.

It is noted that the Notice of Omitted Item(s) in a Nonprovisional Application mailed December 19, 2003, indicates that the present application has been accorded a filing date of September 29, 2003. It appears that the Patent Office may have revised the filing date of the present application based on the Response to Notice of Omitted Item(s) in a Nonprovisional

¹ The Official Action dated July 14, 2004, also sets forth a filing date of February 19, 2004.

Application and the Preliminary Amendment filed in the Patent Office on February 19, 2004. However, such filings do not set forth any new matter which would warrant revising the filing date of the present application. In this regard, the Preliminary Amendment merely contains amendments which correct typographical errors of figure numbers recited therein.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request issuance of a Corrected Updated Official Filing Receipt which indicates that the present application has a filing date of September 29, 2003.

Favorable and early consideration of the application is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: August 4, 2004

By: 

Roger H. Lee
Registration No. 46,317

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620